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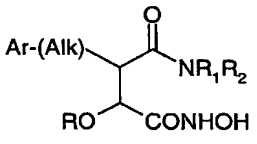
(54) Title: DERIVATIVES OF HYDROXAMIC ACID AS METALLOPROTEINASE INHIBITORS



(I)

(II)

(57) Abstract: Compounds of formula (I) are inhibitors of matrix metalloproteinases, and are of use in the treatment of, for example fibrotic disease, multiple sclerosis, emphysemia, bronchitis and asthma: formula (I) wherein Ar represents an optionally substituted aryl, heteroaryl, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl or heterocycloakyl group; R represents hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl, or C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl; Alk represents a divalent C_1-C_5 alkylene or C_2-C_5 alkenylene radical; and R_1 and R_2 taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a first heterocycloalkyl ring which is optionally fused to a second C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl ring, the said first and second rings being optionally substituted by at least one group of formula (II): formula (II) wherein m, p and n are independently 0 or 1; Z represents, hydrogen, or an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring of from 5 to 7 ring atoms which is optionally fused to another optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring of from 5 to 7 ring atoms; Alk^1 and Alk^2 independently represent optionally substituted divalent C_1-C_3 alkylene radicals; X represents -0-, -S-, -S(O)-, -$S(O_2)$-, -C(=O)-, -NH-, -NR_3-, -$S(O_2)$NH-, -$S(O_2)NR_3$-, -$NHS(O_2)$-, or -$NR_3S(O_2)$-, where R_3 is C_1-C_3 alkyl.

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